

## MORNING NEWS BY CABLE

## **MOORING NEWS BY CABLE:** **Serious Check to the British Troops** **in the East.**

**A More Formidable Force Encountered than  
was Expected—Afghans Apparently  
Emboldened by Success—Imme-  
diate Re-enforcements Called  
for—The Irish Agitators**

**The War in Afghanistan.**  
CALCUTTA, Dec. 15.—A dispatch from General Roberts to the Viceroy of India reports continuous fighting. The enemy is still advancing. General Roberts has decided to collect his forces within the Shipur cantonment, abandoning the heights above the city. General Gough from Kandahar and General Arbuthnot from Jelalabad have been ordered up to Cabul, and reinforcements are being dispatched to replace the troops at those points. Communication with General Roberts is still uninterrupted, but the excitement among the tribes is

LONDON, Dec. 15.—The Viceroy of India telegraphs to-day that General Roberts reports that his force is now collected. In the shipwrecked, the day was fifteen men killed, including two officers, and eighty-eight wounded, including three officers.

LONDON, Dec. 16.—The *Oxford News* announces that the Indian government has asked for a reinforcement of 5,000 men, to be sent out forthwith.

**The Irish Prisoners.**

LONDON, Dec. 15.—Messrs. Davitt, J. J. and J. L. left Cardiff yesterday to-day for Dublin, to meet the prisoners to-day for the first time. They were accompanied by a large number of friends, a large crowd and a band playing Irish airs. The attorney-general arrived at Carrick-on-Shannon

**Verä Samasliet's Crime.**  
LONDON, Dec. 16.—A letter from Vera Samasliet, which was contained in a revolutionary paper smuggled from Switzerland into Russia, explains that her attempt to kill M. Trepoft was made under orders from the revolutionary committee, and that she was urged by the defense, from personal knowledge of the committee's plans, to shoot Trepoft, several names, including two women, were given as to who should kill M. Trepoft, and Vera Samasliet drew the task.

**Stringent Regulations in St. Petersburg.**  
PET. PETERSBURG, Dec. 15.—The *Official Messenger* contains the following regulations issued by the General Gouko, governor of St. Petersburg, for the control of public and private conferences in the streets for the purpose of preserving the public order.

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The undiminished popularity of "H. M. S. Pinafore" was made more palpably, for the first time, by the fact that the National Theatre—Haverly's "Pinafore,"

Just as ever, when the staunch little craft, dressed up in her Sunday attire and manned by an brilliant crew as ever, crank song and made love to the light of the moon, the Theatre will bring to the city an extraordinarily large number of the finest members of the opera line, with an audacious performance as on the very first performance of the season. The cast, that, taken as a whole, the opera was never rendered more effectively in a more manner than by Haverly's Chicago Church Choir Company last evening. The orchestra is excellently trained, as is also the chorus, and the harmonic accompaniment is of a high order. It is really refreshing. (It may not be amiss to remark right here that the ladies of this troupe are all very

humorous, and the gentlemen, not even excepting the "big" ones, were all in the best of humor. The plump, gallant captain's daughter found a most bewitching representative in Miss Adams. Sober, a young lady of great good looks and a fine, clear complexion, a well-trained and well-cultivated soprano voice. She found favor with the audience on sight, and was honored with abundant applause and some fine offerings. Her voice was sweet and clear, and she sang with no less to the point, "Cutest" and most interesting of the lot. We have yet seen. She has a rich, well-rounded contralto voice, and uses it without stint, yet with great understanding. The young lady would make a splendid contralto soprano.

Edna Robinson was never sung better, if as well.

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The opera was, of course, the evening's main attraction. The *Open House*—a "hoibing"—was a popular local institution, and the opera house was filled with a highly appreciative audience last night to greet the Weatherly-Goodwin Combination on their first appearance in the city. The opera was a new production of a comic opera called "Under the Rose," with three characters, which caused a good deal of amusement. The Weatherly-Goodwin Combination, however, consists of six accomplished and talented artists, each of whom has a part to play in the evening's entertainment. The play in itself is nothing, but the parts and witticisms introduced, and especially the excellent acting, are of a high order. The cast includes Jefferson, Frank Mayo, John T. Raymond, Stuart Robson and others. By Mr. Goodwin was simply the "hoibing" of the evening, and the opera was a whole time Mr. Goodwin was on the stage the audience was kept in one continuous roar of laughter.

After a long absence, looking as charming and fascinating as ever, Miss Venice Clancy, a beautiful blonde, who has been singing in the choir of the actress, adds greatly to the performance; and Miss Jeanie Weatherly made a delectable hit as the "little girl" who is the only one of the family who stands her feet most opportunity. When she made her entrance, she was greeted with a great ovation, she held her make-up brought down the house. Mr. McGowan has ample opportunity to display his talents as a comedian, and he has not failed to do so. Charles Bowers and Raymond Holman. The whole performance was highly enjoyable in every particular. It will be repeated on the 10th.

Miss Edith Abell,

Miss Faith Abell's return to the city to take part in the musical comedy, "The Student," at the International Church, has been the occasion of great general interest in musical circles. At her last appearance, at the Metropolitan, she sang "The Song of Sallustius' Lost Chord," with an organ and piano accompaniment, and the great audience were so much pleased with her performance, that they said: "No one that hears her then will ever forget the phenomenal execution, the perfect phrasing and the perfect intonation of the beautiful and stirring song, that has now become a great favorite through-

**Lecture by Colonel A. B. Mescham,**  
The first of a course of six lectures before the Putnam Fruit Growers' Association will be delivered this evening at Fairbridge Hall by Colonel A. B. Mescham, his subject being "Our Indian Brothers: Is Civilization or Extirpation?" Colonel Mescham's eloquence is well known, especially when he is talking on the Indian question. The second lecture will be delivered by Hon. G. H. Loring, of Massachusetts.